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General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

First Committee

26th meeting

Wednesday, 4 June 2008, 10 a.m.

New York

Chairperson: Mr. Badji ..... (Senegal)

In the absence of the Chairperson, Mr. Darwish (Syrian Arab Republic), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly

The Acting Chairperson (*spoke in Arabic*): Ambassador Badji, Chairperson of the First Committee, is currently out of town, and he has asked me to chair this meeting in his absence.

This meeting has been convened to elect the Chairperson and the Bureau, consisting of three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to convey to the Chairperson, Mr. Paul Badji of Senegal, and to the other members of the Bureau at the sixty-second session — the Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Ricardo Morote of Peru and Mr. Roman Hunger of Switzerland, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Dainius Baublys of Lithuania — our great appreciation for their valuable contribution and their efforts in steering the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion.

We shall now proceed with the electoral process, starting with the chairmanship of the First Committee. It is my privilege and honour to nominate the candidate of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo of Honduras, for the post of Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Suazo is a seasoned diplomat and has served here in New York since the early 1990s. He has had experience in chairing one of the Main Committees, having served as Chairperson of the Second Committee during the fifty-seventh session, in 2002. He has also represented Honduras in numerous bodies, including meetings of the International Criminal Court in New York, and as Vice-President of the twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

From 1998 to 2001, Mr. Suazo was adviser in charge of capacity-building programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. He also served as Minister Counsellor at his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations from 1995 to 1998, and as Counsellor from 1991 to 1994.

From 1988 to 1990, Mr. Suazo was the First Secretary at the Embassy of Honduras in Managua, Nicaragua. Before that, between 1986 and 1988, he was Vice-Director of Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He also served as Adviser for Local Governments within the Ministry of the Interior from 1977 to 1980.

Mr. Suazo graduated with a degree in social science and jurisprudence from the Universidad

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Nacional Autónoma de Honduras and completed his postgraduate studies in international relations at the University of Florence, Italy.

Ambassador Suazo has recently published a book on the participation of Honduras in the United Nations.

Given his vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour for me to submit his candidature to the Committee today.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo of Honduras elected Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairperson (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like now to proceed to the election of the three Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

It is my pleasure to put before the Committee the following nominations for the posts of Vice-Chairperson of the First Committee: for the Group of Asian States, Mr. Martin Zvachula of the Federated States of Micronesia; for the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. Ivan Mutavdžić of Croatia; and for the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. Miguel Graça of Portugal. I am also pleased to inform the Committee that Mr. Coly Seck of Senegal has been nominated by the Group of African States for the post of Rapporteur.

Bearing in mind that those four candidates for the posts of Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur have been endorsed and nominated by their respective regional groups unanimously, I expect that the Committee would wish to proceed to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairperson (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, on behalf of the Committee and on my own account, to express our sincere congratulations to Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo on his election as Chairperson, to Mr. Miguel Graça, Mr. Ivan Mutavdžić and Mr. Martin Zvachula on their election as Vice-Chairpersons, and to Mr. Coly Seck on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

I am confident that, given their wealth of experience, political acumen and invaluable knowledge, the First Committee will forge ahead in its work during the sixty-third session.

I give the floor to the Chairperson of the First Committee for the sixty-third session, Ambassador Marco Antonio Suazo.

Mr. Suazo (Honduras) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to congratulate the delegation of Nicaragua and Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann on Father d'Escoto's election as President of the General Assembly for its sixty-third session.

I would like to thank the General Assembly for its confidence that I will be able to lead the work of the First Committee and the Latin American and Caribbean Group for its endorsement of my country's aspirations in that regard. We will commit all of our experience, abilities and good offices to the successful completion of the work of the First Committee.

The Acting Chairperson (*spoke in Arabic*): Once again, I congratulate the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons and the Rapporteur and wish them every success.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.